

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05860 251710Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05
INT-05 DLOS-09 OES-09 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /134 W
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P R 251645Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1798
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5860

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, PBOR, PAOV, SENV, BR, XR, BL
SUBJECT: THE AMAZON PACT

REF: STATE 180478

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN REPLY TO REFTEL. ALL BOLIVIAN NEWSPAPERS GAVE RATHER EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE SIGNING OF THE SUBJECT PACT. REPORTING WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND NOT VERY DETAILED OR ANALYTICAL. MUCH PLAY WAS GIVEN TO STATEMENTS BY BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIAZOLA THAT THE PACT WOULD ONLY ACHIEVE ITS TRUE MEANING WHEN BOLIVIA HAD AN UNOBSTRUCTED OUTLET TO THE ATLANTIC. HE WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SUCH AN OUTLET DID NOT SOLVE BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATUS AND ITS NEED FOR A SOVEREIGN OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC. PRESS REPORTING COVERED STATEMENTS BY BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AZEVEDO AND OTHERS THAT EMPHASIZED THAT THE PACT DID NOT REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT AT HEGEMONY BUT RATHER COOPERATION AMONG SOUTH
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AMERICAN NEIGHBORS.

2. ON JULY 20 THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRAZIL AND BOLIVIA CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT IN LA PAZ TO CREATE A JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WILL PREPARE THE FINAL STUDIES FOR THE DREDGING OF THE TAMENGO CANAL (10.5 KILOMETERS LONG LINKING THE CACERES LAGOON WITH THE PARAGUAY RIVER). CONCLUSIONS OF THIS

AGREEMENT GAVE CONCRETE FORM TO THE AMAZON PACT WHICH HAD JUST BEEN SIGNED ON JULY 3. THE CANAL WILL OSTENSIBLY BE USED FOR BOLIVIAN EXPORTS. THE EXPECTATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES IS THAT THE CANAL WILL INCREASE THE VOLUME OF BOLIVIAN EXPORTS TRANSITING BRAZILIAN PORTS.

3. WE EXPECT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL WILL CONTINUE TO BE CORDIAL AND CLOSE UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PEREDA. WE ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEMS OR UNDUE DELAYS IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE PACT. THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL RESPECT ALL TREATIES.

4. BOLIVIAN RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL BUT THERE IS A PERSISTENT DISTRUST OF INTENTIONS THAT USUALLY CHARACTERIZES RELATIONS BETWEEN LARGE AND POWERFUL AND SMALL AND WEAK NATIONS. BOLIVIA RECOGNIZES A CERTAIN DEGREE OF NEED OF BRAZIL, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. THERE ARE SEVERAL PENDING PROJECTS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE MUTUN IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX, IF FINALLY BUILT, WILL DEPEND ON BRAZILIAN PURCHASES OF BOLIVIAN STEEL PRODUCTS AND BOLIVIA'S LARGE NATURAL GAS RESERVES CAN FIND THEIR BIGGEST AND PERHAPS ONLY ADDITIONAL (EXCEPT ARGENTINA) OUTLET IN THE HUGE BRAZILIAN MARKET. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND COMMERCIAL INTERCHANGE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL IN COMING YEARS ESPECIALLY AS BOLIVIA'S EASTERN REGIONS ARE THE FASTEST GROWING PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. IN THE LONG RUN
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THE PACT WILL TEND TO INCREASE THE NATURAL COMMERCIAL CONTACT THAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES AS THE NATURAL RESOURCE EXPORTS OF EASTERN BOLIVIA FIND THEIR WAY TO MARKETS TO AND THROUGH BRAZIL. BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL THUS BE STRENGTHENED IF AT THE SAME TIME COMPLICATED BY GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE.
BOEKER

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